

Claims

Individual changes

In Claim 1, Line 1, after the words “second hinge portion” delete “and” and insert - - , - -.

In Claim 1, Line 1, after the word “latch” insert - - and a spring - -.

In Claim 1, Line 3, delete “to provide a means”.

In Claim 1, after Line 5, insert - - where the first hinge portion contains a top part; where the spring is disposed between the self locking latch and the top part of the first hinge portion; - -.

In Claim 1, Line 6, after the words “attached to the” insert - - top part of the - -.

In Claim 1, Line 7, delete “containing a lobe designed to engage a recess in the second hinge portion;” and substitute with - - where the self locking latch contains a press tab, a main portion and a connecting lobe; - -.

In Claim 1, Lines 8 and 9, delete both lines and substitute - - where said connecting lobe is designed to engage a recess in the second hinge portion; where said engagement of the connecting lobe into the recess of the second hinge portion locks the hinge in its engaged position; where the axis of the connecting lobe is perpendicular to the axis of the main portion of the self locking latch; - -.

In Claim 1, Line 13, delete the period and insert a semi colon.

In Claim 1, after Line 13, insert - - where the self locking latch contains two flanges designed to provide a stop for the self locking latch; wherein an individual can disengage the hinge with a single hand from its engaged position by applying pressure by the finger of one’s hand on to the press tab causing the self locking latch to pivot resulting in the connecting lobe disengaging from the recess in the second hinge portion and thus disengaging the hinge; wherein an individual can engage the hinge with a single hand by applying pressure by the finger of one’s hand on to the press tab causing the self locking latch to pivot, then allowing the two hinge portions to swing into a 180 degree orientation and then releasing the pressure on the press tab causing the self locking to pivot and the connecting lobe to engage the recess in the second hinge portion and thus engage the hinge. - -.

In Claim 2, Line 2, delete “a suitable material, such as”.

In Claim 3, Line 1 delete the word “invention” and substitute - - hinge - -.

In Claim 3, Line 2 delete the “wading staffs, ski poles, walking sticks, canes or other poled devices.” and substitute - - wading staffs, canes, walking sticks, and ski poles. - -.

In Claim 4, Line 1 delete the word “invention” and substitute - - hinge - -.

In Claim 4, Line 2, delete “devices that required a collapsible frame, for example, but not limited to, golf carts, baby carriages and collapsible tents.” and substitute - - golf carts, baby carriages and collapsible tents. - - .

In Claim 5, Line 1 after the word “where” delete “several inventions are used in conjunction with poled, or other, devices so that the devices” and substitute - - a plurality of said hinges are used in conjunction with a poled device so that the device - -.

Add Claim 6 - - A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 wherein one can engage the hinge with a single hand by holding on to the first hinge portion, or a pole attached thereto, and allow gravity or other force to cause the second hinge portion to swing into a 180 degree orientation with the first hinge portion and thus engage the invention. - -.

Complete list of Claims as Amended

Claim 1 (currently amended): A Self Locking Hinge comprising:

a first hinge portion, a second hinge portion [and], a self locking latch and a spring;

where each hinge portion comprises a connecting portion containing lobes designed [to provide a means] to pivotally connect the two hinge portions together and a main body portion designed to connect the hinge portion to an object or objects to be hinged together;

where the first hinge portion contains a top part;

where the spring is disposed between the self locking latch and the top part of the first hinge portion;

where said self locking latch is spring actuated, pivotally attached to the top part of the first hinge portion and where the self locking latch contains a press tab, a main portion and a connecting lobe; [containing a lobe designed to engage a recess in the second hinge portion;]

[where said engagement of the self locking latch's lobe into the recess of the second hinge portion provides a means to lock the invention in its engaged position;]

where said connecting lobe is designed to engage a recess in the second hinge portion;

where said engagement of the connecting lobe into the recess of the second hinge portion locks the hinge in its engaged position;

where the axis of the connecting lobe is perpendicular to the axis of the main portion of the self locking latch;

where said lobes of the hinge portions are off set from the center axis of their respective hinge portions thereby providing a means to allow the hinge portions to pivotally move in

an 180-degree orientation with respect to each other from a disengaged position to an engaged position[.];

where the self locking latch contains two flanges designed to provide a stop for the self locking latch;

wherein an individual can disengage the hinge with a single hand from its engaged position by applying pressure by the finger of one's hand on to the press tab causing the self locking latch to pivot resulting in the connecting lobe disengaging from the recess in the second hinge portion and thus disengaging the hinge;

wherein an individual can engage the hinge with a single hand by applying pressure by the finger of one's hand on to the press tab causing the self locking latch to pivot, then allowing the two hinge portions to swing into a 180 degree orientation and then releasing the pressure on the press tab causing the self locking to pivot and the connecting lobe to engage the recess in the second hinge portion and thus engage the hinge.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the hinge portions and the self locking latch are made from [a suitable material, such as] metal or plastic.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the hinge [invention] is used in conjunction with [wading staffs, ski poles, walking sticks, canes or other poled devices.] wading staffs, canes, walking sticks, and ski poles.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the [invention] hinge is used in conjunction with [devices that required a collapsible frame, for example,

but not limited to, golf carts, baby carriages and collapsible tents.] golf carts, baby carriages and collapsible tents.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where a plurality of said hinges are used in conjunction with a poled device so that the device [several inventions are used in conjunction with poled, or other, devices so that the devices] can be folded in multiple sections to minimize the folded length.

Claim 6 (currently added): A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 wherein one can engage the hinge with a single hand by holding on to the first hinge portion, or a pole attached thereto, and allow gravity or other force to cause the second hinge portion to swing into a 180 degree orientation with the first hinge portion and thus engage the invention.